

Creating a peace officer student loan program
(SB 269 by Armbrister/Morales)

DIGEST: SB 269 would have authorized the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) to establish and administer a college loan program for current and prospective peace officers. A peace officer who was a Texas resident eligible for in-state tuition and attending a state institution of higher education could have received a loan to cover tuition, fees and other education expenses. A prospective peace officer would have been subject to the same restrictions but could have received up to \$2,000 per semester to cover education and reasonable living expenses. Officers with at least two years experience could have canceled both the principal and interest on the loan. Those with less than two years experience could have canceled only the interest portion.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON
FOR VETO:

A program that would cancel the interest or the principal and interest is more like a grant program than a loan program. The provision that would have offset living expenses for prospective peace officers violates the spirit of the Texas Constitution in reference to the compensation of public officers and the prohibition against enacting a local or special law where a general law can be made applicable.

RESPONSE: Sen. Kenneth Armbrister, the author of SB 269, had no comment.

NOTES: The House Research Organization analysis of SB 269 appeared in the May 24, 1989 Daily Floor Report.